Mechanism to assess the quality of education

4397. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has a mechanism to assess the quality of education and facilities available in Universities/educational institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government realize the need for such a mechanism; and

(d) if so, why such a mechanism is not being developed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission has established an autonomous body. National Assessment and Accreditation Council, in 1994 at Bangalore, to assess and accredit institutions of higher learning with an objective of helping them to work continuously to improve the quality of education.

Court's verdict in NCERT text book controversy

†4398. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that though the court has justified the changes brought in by NCERT in the text books recently, several State Governments are showing reluctance for implementation of the said syllabus in the name of saffronisation of education, which is not justified;

(b) whether Government propose to take any action against State Governments who are not implementing the syllabus of the NCERT; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government has not received any specific intimation from any State Government showing reluctance for implementation of the said syllabus in the name of saffronisation of education.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

School Education—a profitable enterprise

4399. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have noticed the trend among the middle-class/ lower middle-class families of investing in education of their children as a priority;

(b) whether any scientific study has been conducted into this trend especially with a view to facilitate creation of necessary infrastructure towards fulfiling such mass aspiration about children;

(c) if so, salient findings of the study, and if not, the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether this trend have fuelled mushrooming of "convent" schools solely to fleece the parents even though providing education of indifferent quality to their children; and

(e) whether school education be continued to be allowed as profitable enterprise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) Though no scientific study has been got conducted, there is a perceptible demand for education. Free and compulsory education for children between the age of 6 and 14 years has since been enshrined as a Fundamental Right in our Constitution. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been launched to provide quality education for 8 years to the children between the aforesaid age group.

The National Policy on Education (NPE) while encouraging non-governmental and voluntary efforts including social activist groups in the filed of education, calls for steps to prevent commercialisation of education.